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requirement of chemical selectivity is important in certain applications, given the high sensitivity now obtained by analytical instrumentation, which may preclude the use of an arbitrary collection system (e.g., activated charcoal). Too many compounds in the collection medium can interfere with each other, requiring timely extractions and chemical separations to isolate the specific analyte of interest. Selectivity in certain applications thus simplifies and hastens the analyses.

IN THE CLAIMS

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1. (Twice Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a support structure formed of a material selected from the group consisting of glass fibers, plastic fibers, and a metal wire; and

a sample collection substrate constructed for solid phase microextraction on the support structure, wherein the substrate covers the entire perimeter of one end of the support structure and the substrate comprises a material selected from the group consisting of organic aerogels, inorganic aerogels, organic xerogels, inorganic xerogels, and combinations thereof.

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21. (New) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the metal wire comprises an iron containing alloy.

22. (New) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the iron containing alloy comprises stainless steel.

23. (New) The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the iron containing alloy comprises a material with an index-matched to the thermal expansion of glass.
